

11,000 FUTURES

On a path to upward mobility by 2030



12TH ANNUAL STATE OF OUR CHILDREN ADDRESS AND REPORT CARD RELEASE

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THANK YOU

WELCOME

TO THE 12TH ANNUAL STATE OF OUR CHILDREN ADDRESS & REPORT CARD RELEASE

We are excited to make connections, share learning and catalyze action as a community. Addressing upward mobility as an alliance requires us to work together and mobilize for what's best for children and families. This year's event is designed to fuel your organization's contribution to our collective goal of putting **11,000 more young people on a path to upward mobility**. In the report card, you will find examples of partners, parents and youth who are doing just that.

ROC the Future Alliance supports early childhood development through collaboration with the Rochester City School District and charter schools to improve academic outcomes from cradle to career. We work closely with Alliance members such as Action for a Better Community, Ibero American Action League, The Children's Agenda, and Children's Institute to encourage every family in Rochester to take advantage of free, high-quality Early Pre-K (EPK) and Universal Pre-K (UPK) programs. We know that introducing children to educational opportunities early in life—helping three-and-four-year-olds “start smart”—is critically important to building a foundation for great academic outcomes, upward mobility, and better quality of life.

Improving critical cradle to career milestones will ensure that our students are ***School Ready, Supported, Successful, and College and Career Ready***.

Together, with leaders representing systems such as education, healthcare, housing, business, philanthropy, and government, along with parents and youth— we know that we can support intentional alignment of resources to accelerate and increase our collective impact.

Visit www.rocthefuture.org for more information and to share the data and stories in this report with others in your sphere of influence. No one entity can do this work alone, but collectively, we can have a greater impact that will lead to meaningful change in our community.

In partnership,



Dr. Lorna Washington
ROC the Future Alliance
Board Chair



Brian Lewis
ROC the Future Alliance
Executive Director

ROC the Future Alliance (RTFA) is a member of the StriveTogether® network, a national movement of nearly 70 place-based partnerships improving key outcomes for over 14 million youth and counting. We are an Alliance of over 60 leading Rochester-area institutions, Parent/Family Partners (PFPs) and youth. We promote the alignment of community resources and initiatives to improve the academic achievement of Rochester's children. We use a collective impact framework that involves centralized infrastructure, a dedicated Backbone staff, and a structured process to form a common agenda, shared measurement, continuous communication, and mutually reinforcing activities across organizations.

OUR GOALS

- Every Child is School Ready
- Every Child is Supported
- Every Child is Successful
- Every Child is College and Career Ready

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Parent/Family Partner



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VP, Community Engagement
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of Educational Studies,
Empire State University

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OUTCOMES TEAM CO-CHAIRS



Nicolle Haynes
Executive Director of MTSS:
Equity-Driven Learning and
Support, Rochester City School
District



Shawanda Evans
Director of Pre-Collegiate
Programs and Dual-Enrollment,
Monroe Community College

PARENT ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK CO-CHAIRS



Janice Kpor
Parent/Family Partner



Makhi Whitley
Parent/Family Partner

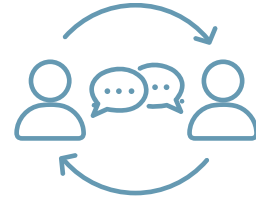
OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This year, we completed our Common Agenda. A Common Agenda is an essential condition for success in collective impact. Our Common Agenda includes our guiding principles, problem definition, goals, framework for change and plan for learning.



Strengthening Relationships

ROC the Future Alliance welcomes and values relationships with community partners while centering Parent/Family Partners and youth. Together, we co-create solutions to improve educational outcomes, including health and human services, for every child in Rochester.



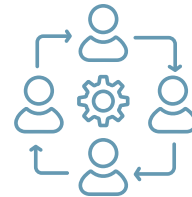
Community Engagement

ROC the Future Alliance aligns with Parent/Family Partners, youth, and the community—as contributors, co-creators, and decision-makers—to support children’s and family’s success through collaborative efforts.



Racial Equity

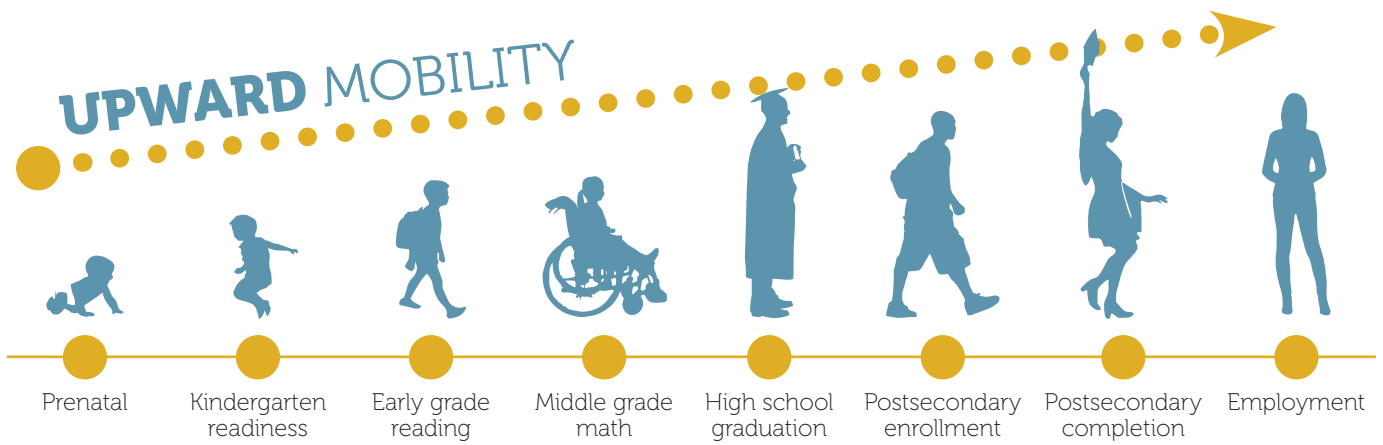
ROC the Future Alliance commits to dismantling racism and transforming systems that perpetuate inequity by changing policies, practices, and power structures to ensure that Black and Brown children in Rochester have educational equity, health, and well-being.



Continuous Improvement

ROC the Future Alliance makes community-driven and data informed decisions, continuously monitoring progress and making adjustments that change and improve systems so that every child in Rochester is positioned to achieve economic mobility.

The work of our Conveners, Parent/Family Partners, and youth leaders is creating an impact. This report is an illustrative reflection, not an exhaustive list, of our collaborative efforts to position every child in Rochester on a path to academic success.



CRADLE-TO-CAREER OUTCOMES

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COLLECTIVE IMPACT

ROC the Future Alliance amplifies the efforts of the community.

WE MAKE AN IMPACT BY:

- Sharing a common agenda.
- Measuring common outcomes.
- Using evidence-based practices.
- Staying in continuous communication.
- Mutually reinforcing one another's efforts.
- Mobilizing resources.
- Increasing equity.

STRIVETOGETHER THEORY OF ACTION FOUR PILLARS:

- Shared community vision
- Evidence based decision making
- Collaborative action
- Investment and sustainability



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSAL PRE-K POSITIONS PRESCHOOLERS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

One Saturday morning last August, Shay Wilson turned on the radio and heard an interview that may end up changing the course of her four-year-old granddaughter's life. The interview was about the profound impact that attending Pre-K can make on a child's development.

"I remember clearly, Dr. Eva Thomas, Executive Director of Early Childhood Education for Rochester City School District (RCSD), and Brian Lewis, Executive Director for ROC the Future Alliance, were explaining that children don't need to be potty trained to attend Pre-K," said Wilson.

"I remember clearly, Dr. Eva Thomas, Executive Director of Early Childhood Education for RCSD, and Brian Lewis, Executive Director for ROC the Future Alliance, were explaining that children don't need to be potty trained to attend Pre-K," said Wilson. "They actually have professionals to help potty train your child. I said, 'Oh, my God, this is exactly what we need!"

"They actually have professionals to help potty train your child. I said, 'Oh, my God, this is exactly what we need!"

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

“A lot of people are embarrassed about asking for help,” added Wilson. “Hearing Dr. Thomas and Mr. Lewis on the radio, it was like they were welcoming us with open arms. That gave us hope.”

Wilson immediately called the radio station and spoke to Dr. Thomas.

Within a few days, the family was filling out paperwork to enroll Shay's granddaughter in Pre-K. The child's mother was discouraged by how difficult it was to find resources to support her daughter, who is autistic. The program has helped her with speech so she can communicate and learn better.

“A lot of people are embarrassed about asking for help,” added Wilson. “Hearing Dr. Thomas and Mr. Lewis on the radio, it was like they were welcoming us with open arms. That gave us hope.”





Pre

ENROLL HERE



Full-day programs at schools and community agencies

Engaging activities promote social growth and early learning

Indoor/outdoor play and rest time everyday

Free monthly RTS bus pass for parents

RCSD RENEWS EFFORTS TO FILL EVERY PRE-K SEAT

Thanks to a year-round recruitment and advocacy campaign, RCSD has made significant improvement in enrollment compared to prior years.

ADVOCACY FOR PRESCHOOL SY 24-25

- Fill all preschool seats by October 2.
- Attendance outreach for 3-and-4-year-old students with chronic absenteeism.
- Preschool and kindergarten vertical alignment teacher meetings.
- Encourage principals to have a kindergarten readiness day at every elementary school.

ZERO-TO-FIVE THRIVE AT ABC HEAD START

Action for a Better Community's Head Start and Early Head Start are federally funded programs that provide educational and developmental services to more than 1,000 children and pregnant women in Monroe County. Every year, Head Start programs serve more than one million children across the United States.

ABC provides one of the highest performing Head Start programs in the country by actively ensuring all children have equitable access to a quality preschool education and by assisting parents in providing a home life that nurtures their child's full development.

Ashley and Diciel Moukoudi enrolled their two-year-old daughter Kinsley in Early Head Start in September 2023. Since enrolling, the Moukoudi's have enjoyed many benefits. "We were looking for a program to help Kinsley develop socially," said Ashley. "She had never really been anywhere without me. She was a late talker and walker. ABC Head Start helped her develop verbal and social skills. By the end of the year, Kinsley knew every one of her classmates by name and invited all of them to her birthday party."

Kinsley's academic progress has been equally impressive. In just one school year, the two-year-old learned how to recite the alphabet, count to 20, and identify an array of colors.

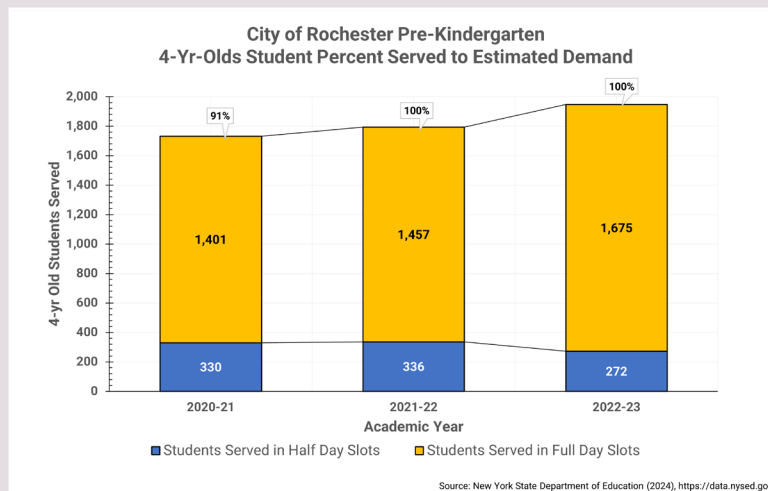
After one year of Early Head Start, Ashley and Diciel are thrilled with Kinsley's development and confident that she's well on her way to being kindergarten ready by the time she turns five.



Building new beginnings

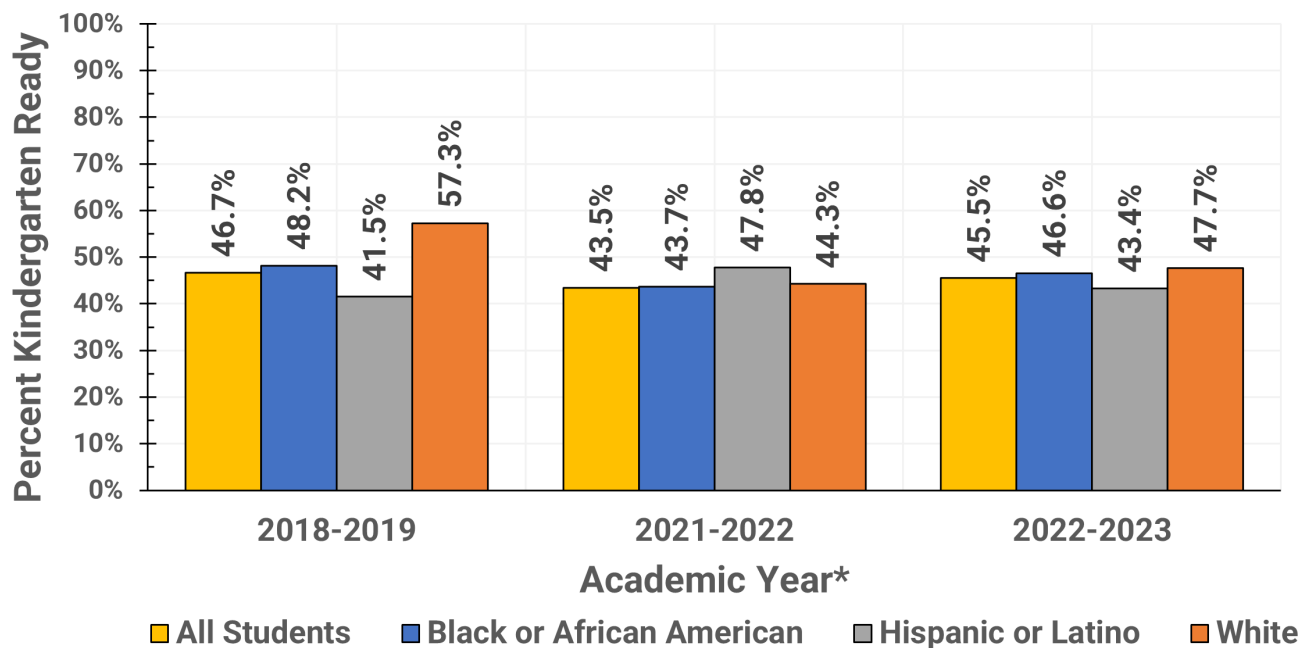


KINDERGARTEN READINESS



Kindergarten Readiness 2022-2023 School Year		
All Rochester City Students	K-Ready	Current Trend
All Students	45.5%	↑
All African American/Black Students	46.6%	↑
All Hispanic or Latino Students	43.3%	↓
All White Students	47.5%	↑
All Female Students	47.9%	→
Female African American/Black Students	51.4%	↑
Female Hispanic / Latino Students	42.7%	↓
Female White Students	49.0%	↓
All Male Students	43.1%	↑
Male African American/Black Students	41.7%	↑
Male Hispanic / Latino Students	44.0%	↑
Male White Students	46.6%	↑

Kindergarten Readiness - RECAP Measure All Students by Race & Ethnicity



* SY2019-2020 & SY2020-2021 not included due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Children's Institute, RECAP Program Annual Reports, (7/18/24), <https://childrensinstitute.net>



IBERO FORMS POWERFUL ALLIANCES TO EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Ibero American Action League offers free before-and-after-care programs for preschool children through its Early Childhood Services department. The curriculum focuses on literacy and math to ensure that children are kindergarten ready. Children leave the program knowing how to write their names and numbers.



Ibero has several key partnerships focused on early childhood development:

- University of Rochester provides literacy games and books for children and families.
- Rochester Public Library provides weekly reading bags that children take home and read with their families through Raising a Reader program.
- Greater Rochester Summer Leap provides summer learning assistance to mitigate the effect of learning loss. The six-week program concentrates on literacy, science, and math.

Ibero offers workshops to help parents understand how their child learns. There are

eight workshops that cover health and safety, language development, and more.

Ibero also has Tele-Med services so that children suffering from illnesses can be seen immediately by a physician so they don't miss school.

Ibero has a goal of 85% or higher average daily attendance. They reward students by celebrating perfect attendance and support families by making follow up phone calls to every parent whose child is absent. Ibero keeps track of each child's attendance and schedules meetings when attendance is poor to learn how best to serve the child and family.



PedsRoc4Kids

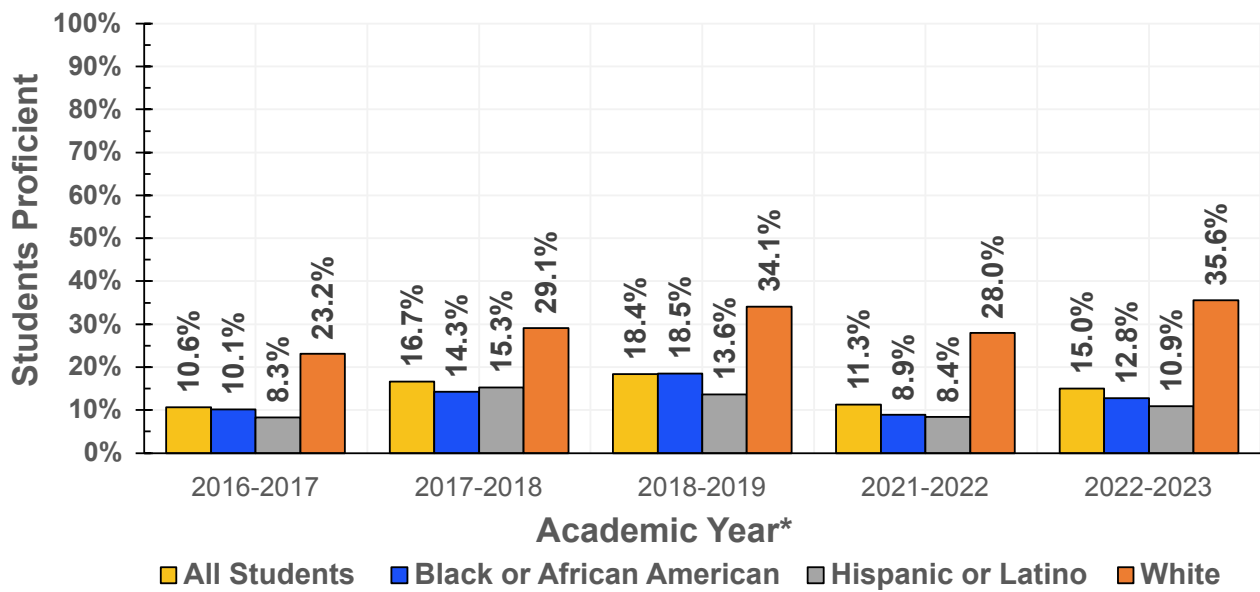
Improving outcomes at the intersection of education and health

ROC the Future Alliance's PedsROC4Kids workgroup is driving transformational change at the intersection of education and health care. Here's a snapshot of some of their work.

- Getting Kids Immunized: The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and Rochester Regional Health (RRH) are continuing their efforts to increase access to routine vaccinations so that Rochester City School District (RCSD) students can go to school. All students from Pre-K through grade 12 must have their required immunizations by the end of September to avoid exclusion from school.
- The PedsROC4Kids Media Workgroup is identifying necessary changes in local media protocols, including how the impact of media coverage on racial perceptions affects students, and how these affects impact the mental health of youth.
- PedsROC4Kids is elevating messaging to families about Pre-K enrollment. The pediatric team is working to ensure that community providers can help elevate messaging to families about kindergarten readiness and are prepared to support attendance, behavior, and classroom academics.

REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF OUT OF SCHOOL TIME FOR EARLY GRADE LITERACY

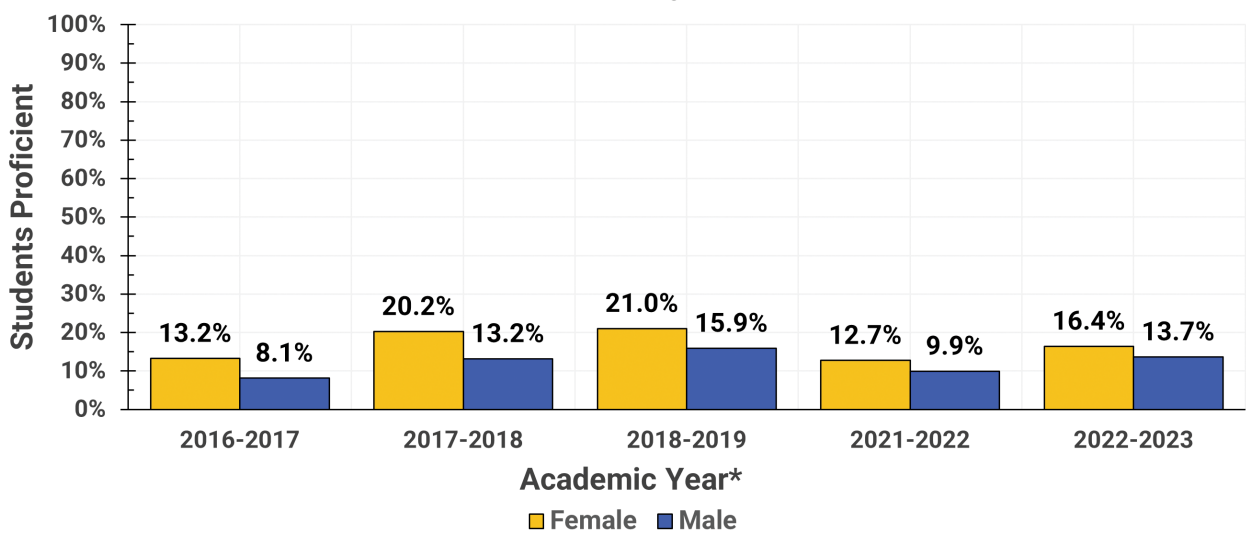
Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency
All Students by Race & Ethnicity



* SY2019-2020 & SY2020-2021 have been determined to be invalid due to abnormal number of students not tested during COVID-19 pandemic

Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

Third Grade English Language Arts Proficiency
All Students by Gender



* SY2019-2020 & SY2020-2021 have been determined to be invalid due to abnormal number of students not tested during COVID-19 pandemic

Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

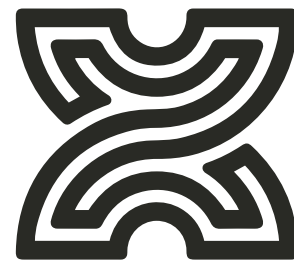


THE WORD RICH VOLUNTEER TEAM (MADE UP OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS)
TRAIN TO PROVIDE DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENTS TO STUDENTS.

FREEDOM SCHOLARS USES CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE METHODS TO INCREASE EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

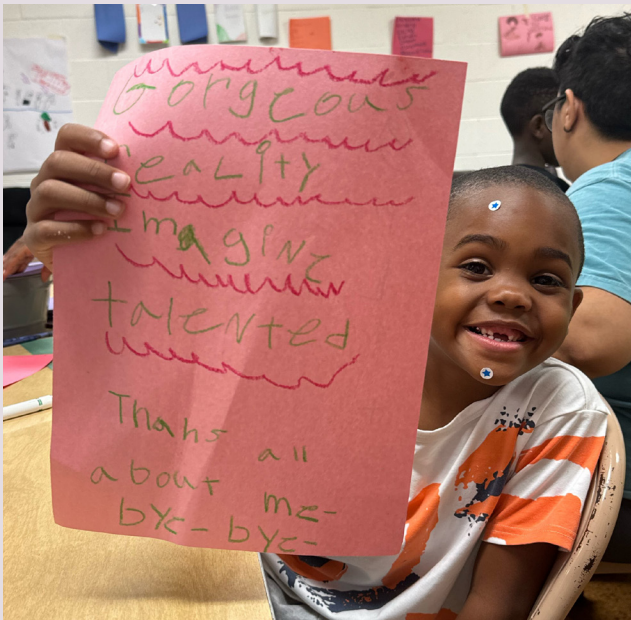
Freedom Scholars Learning Center (FSLC) provides after school and summer enrichment programs including an integrated reading curriculum to improve early grade literacy for Rochester youth.

Their literacy intervention program is called Word RICH (**Reading Intervention through Cultural Heritage**). It incorporates linguistic, rhythmic, kinesthetic (learning through a physical activity), multimedia, and cultural knowledge-based approaches to help keep students highly engaged in developing their reading abilities.



FREEDOM SCHOLARS LEARNING CENTER

"Our integrated reading curriculum allows instructors to design lesson plans that are activity oriented instead of the traditional and outdated ways of teaching literacy," said Freedom Scholars Learning Center Executive Director Jeremy Smith. "A lot of kids are kinesthetic learners and our integrated reading curriculum caters to this by providing physical activities, allowing them to move around. To improve reading comprehension, we use drums to beat out syllables and play board games with diverse characters that look like our students. The kids are having so much fun, they don't even know they're reading."

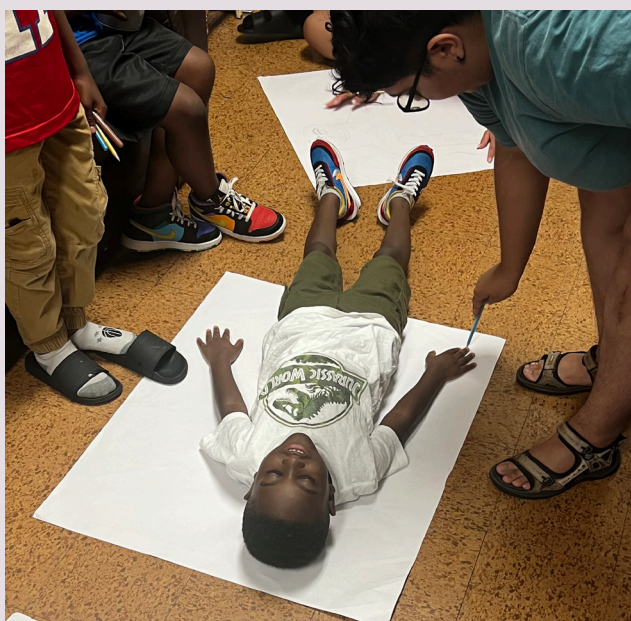


FOR STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED A PRE-ASSESSMENT AND POST-ASSESSMENT:

- **Ten students (20% of the roster) made a significant leap**, improving a whole reading level (i.e. "well below" to "below," "below" to "benchmark," etc.). This would be difficult to achieve during an entire school year, so accomplishing this in a 5-week summer program is notable.
- Out of 35 students who underwent pre- and post-assessments, **18 students saw a notable increase in their DIBELS Composite scores, with an average gain of 15 points**. This significant improvement underscores the positive impact FSLC's reading intervention program has on student performance.

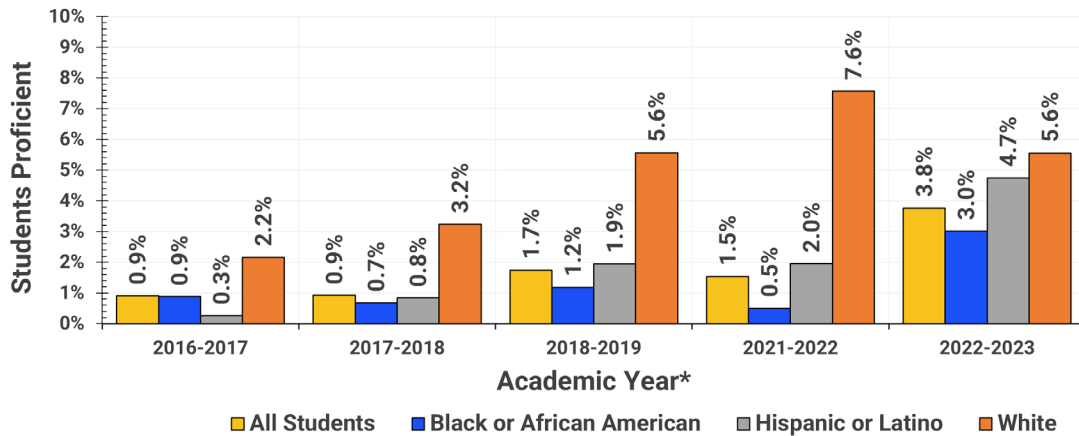


**FREEDOM SCHOLARS LEARNING CENTER'S
INTEGRATED READING CURRICULUM.**



Freedom Scholars is a proud member of the Greater Rochester After-school and Summer Alliance (GRASA) provider network. GRASA is an initiative of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, a convener of ROC the Future Alliance.

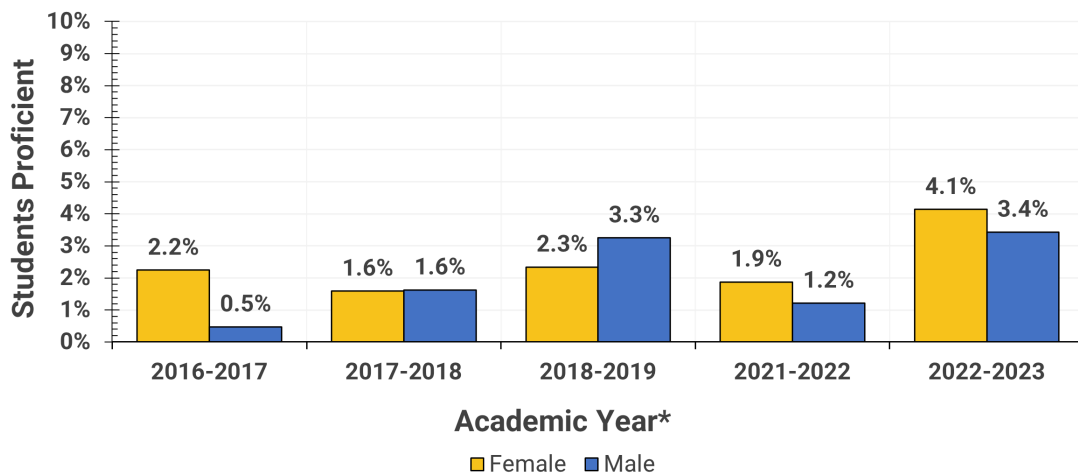
8th Grade Math Proficiency All Students by Race & Ethnicity



* SY2019-2020 & SY2020-2021 have been determined to be invalid due to abnormal number of students not tested during COVID-19 pandemic

Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

8th Grade Math Proficiency All Students by Gender



SECONDARY SUCCESS

Middle grade math proficiency is an indicator of secondary success. The High School Graduation Outcomes Team is tracking transcript data at the end of each marking period as a predictive measure to high

school success and college graduation. We know that students who pass the algebra regents are significantly more likely to graduate college.

CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY CREATES WINNING ENVIRONMENT AT VERTUS

Vertus High School is a non-profit, public charter school serving young men in grades 9-12. Since opening in 2014, faculty and staff have focused on academic success and character development by building strong relationships with students and their families. Each student is part of a small learning team of 12-16 individuals led by a full-time mentor and guide called a Preceptor. “Preceptors have our students’ backs 24/7/365,” said Vertus CEO Julie Locey. “They create a safe and supportive environment where each student has an adult who is responsible for his success.”

2024 Vertus graduate Reggie Pough benefited greatly from this learning environment, which he describes as “life-changing.”

“I had several Preceptors in my four years at Vertus but there was one who stood out—Mr. Geno Allport. He was always there, always listening, always such a good person and role model. You can’t teach that. It was like having a second father. I have to thank Vertus for putting me on a path to do big things with my life.” Pough enrolled at Erie Community College last fall.

Vertus graduation rates—79% in 2024 and 86% in 2023—are one indicator that their approach is working. Much of Vertus’ success can also be credited to their laser-like focus on ensuring regular attendance. “We’ve created a



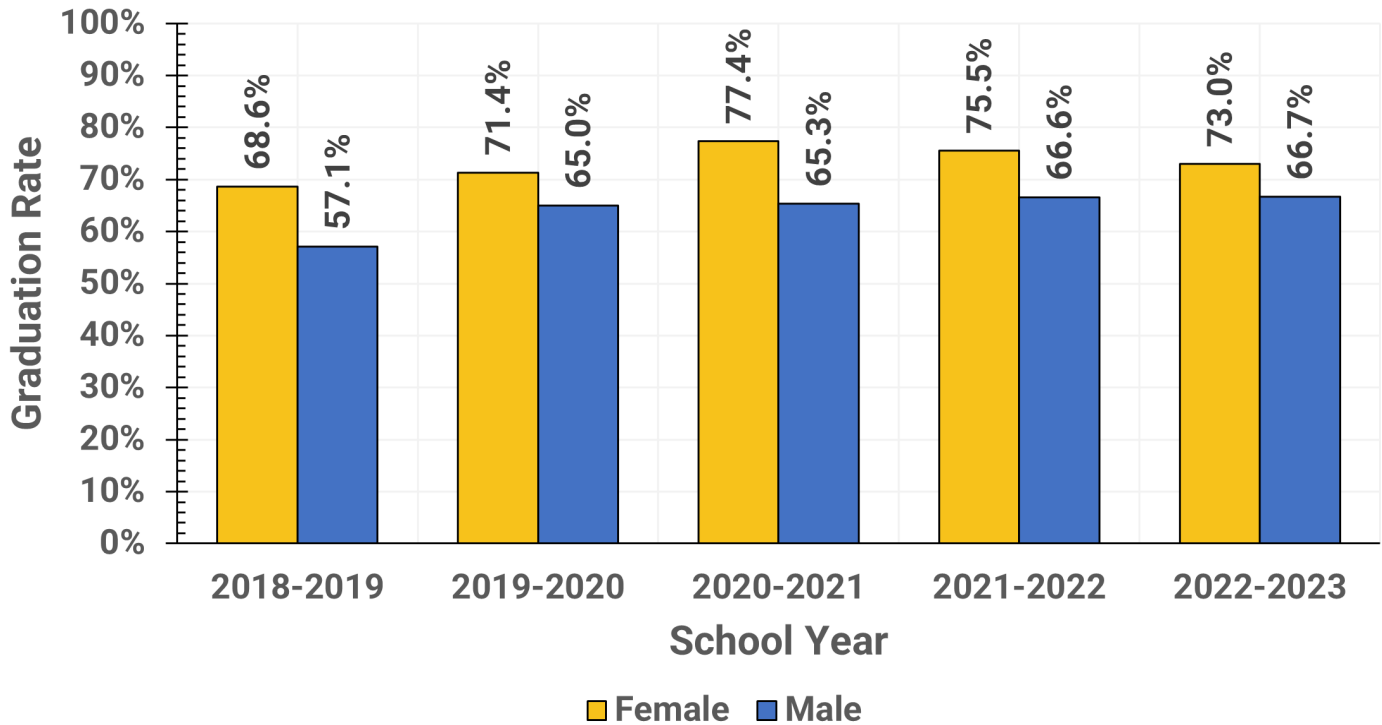
Vertus
HIGH SCHOOL

system where we ‘wrap our arms around’ the student and their family and provide whatever resources we can to remove barriers so that every student can receive a quality education,” explained Locey.

Vertus was one of 10 high schools that participated in empathy interviews hosted by ROC the Future Alliance’s High School Graduation Outcome Team (HSGOT). Our empathy interviews are small-group discussions with public and charter school administrators which provide a space to share ideas, challenges, and best practices in order to promote “High School Success.”

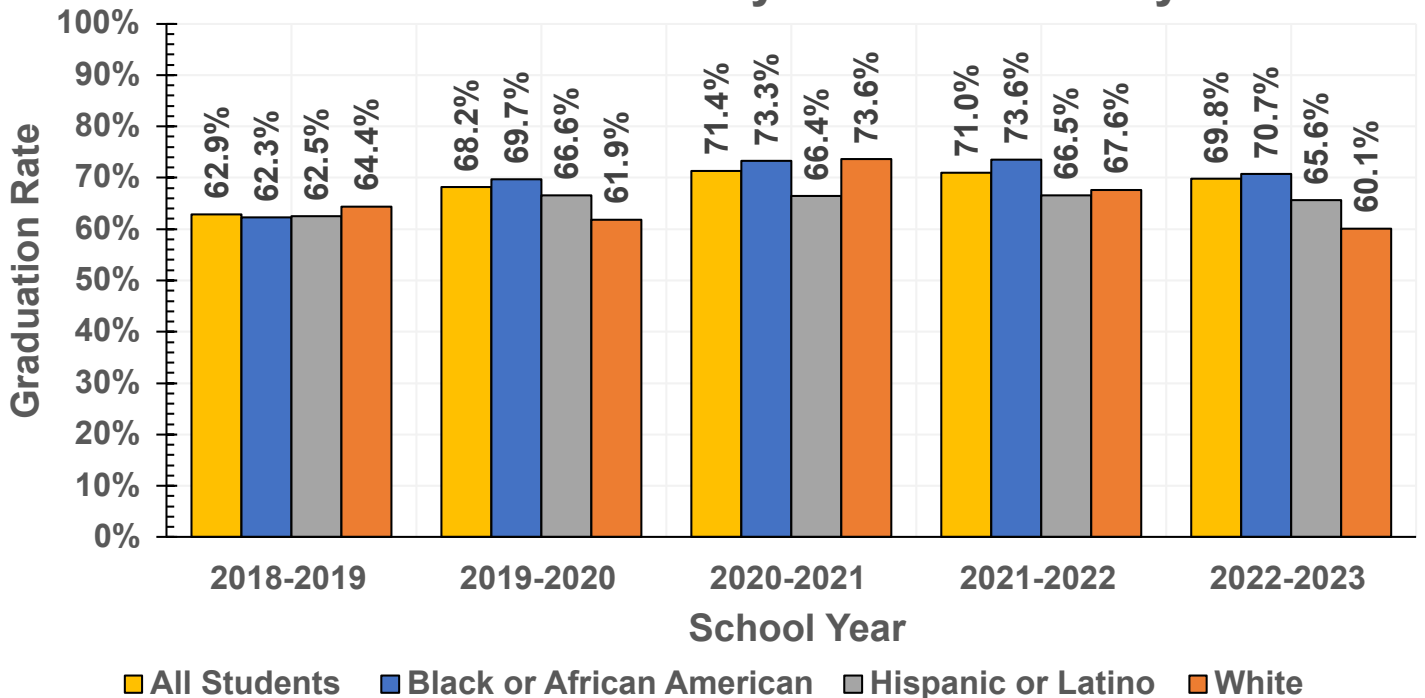


Public and Charter High Schools Graduation Rates by Gender



Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

Public and Charter High Schools Graduation Rates by Race & Ethnicity



Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OUTCOME TEAM SHARPENS FOCUS ON 2030 GOAL

ROC the Future Alliance's High School Graduation Outcome Team (HSGOT) collaborates with some of Rochester's most dedicated change agents, including leaders from RCSD, the City of Rochester, Monroe Community College, ESL Federal Credit Union, Rochester Works, Rochester Education Foundation, the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), and our Parent/Family Partners. With input from our community partners and a national practitioner, the HSGOT has determined that to achieve an 80% graduation rate by 2030, schools must use evidence-based strategies to improve attendance and the ninth-grade experience, while continuing to ensure students receive high-quality learning experiences that prepare them for college and career and translate into upward mobility.



EAST HIGH SCHOOL USES A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

East High School serves on the HSGOT represented by Principal Caterina Leone-Mannino. East is among a growing number of schools using multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to achieve better academic outcomes.

- To improve attendance and create a more engaging ninth-grade experience, East assigns each student to a “family” led by a faculty or staff member known as a “carent” (caring parent).
- East’s Counselor Admin Social Work Team (CAST) provides a second tier of support. Each CAST has a group of students they are responsible for monitoring and providing Tier 1 and 2 supports. They review attendance, behavior, and course grades/credit once per week.
- These Teams consult data regularly to determine early warning signs of trouble for students. In addition, they receive qualitative data from a student’s carent, teacher, parent, family or other caring adults. The teams then use that data to devise a plan of support, often referred to as an “intervention plan.”
- “One of the challenges the HSGOT is addressing is that a lot of schools don’t have clearly defined multi-tiered systems of support,” said HSGOT Co-Chair Nicolle Haynes. “We need more schools to have structures like this. In my ‘day job’ with the RCSD, our goal is to help them create it.”





PEER MENTORING

Another strategy that has come up as HSGOT engaged in interviews with leaders and students is encouraging more high schools to commit to having older scholars mentor ninth graders. Students tend to be influenced more by each other than by adults. Not only are students at East High School embracing this role, but they recently asked to expand the mentoring program to allow more time with first-year students to help them adjust to high school. As a result, East is now hosting block

parties where four or five family groups get together once a month to provide additional space for mentoring.

We hope more schools will adopt strategies to enhance the freshman experience, improve attendance and increase college and career readiness. Ninth grade is a pivotal year for all of these goals, which is illustrated in the book, *The Make-or-Break Year: Solving the Dropout Crisis One Ninth Grader at a Time*.

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

ROCHESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION HELPS STUDENTS CLEAR BARRIER TO COLLEGE ENROLLMENT: COMPLETING THE FAFSA FORM

According to State Senator Andrew Gounardes and SUNY Chancellor John B. King, “Studies show **90% of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA go to college directly after graduation, compared to just 55% of seniors who do not complete the FAFSA.**

Even more notably, for high school students in the lowest socioeconomic quintile, **FAFSA completion is correlated with a 127% increase in immediate post-secondary enrollment.**

In other words: for high school seniors in the bottom 20% of household wealth, completing the FAFSA made it more than twice as likely they’d be in college the following fall.

In short, when more students fill out the FAFSA, more students attend college—because they’ve learned they can attend college for free.”

*...for high school seniors in the bottom 20% of household wealth, **completing the FAFSA made it more than twice as likely they’d be in college the following fall.** In short, when more students fill out the FAFSA, more students attend college—**because they’ve learned they can attend college for free.***

Rochester Education Foundation (REF) is the ROC the Future Alliance Convener that assists students with completing the FAFSA and other critical financial aid forms. Since 2015, REF has hosted FAFSA Fests, which have earned recognition including the prestigious National College Attainment Network award in 2018. Adapting to challenges and incorporating valuable feedback from students, families, and educators, REF continuously refines and enhances their approach. REF hosts FAFSA Fest events at each RCSD high school and 6 charter schools as well as throughout the community.

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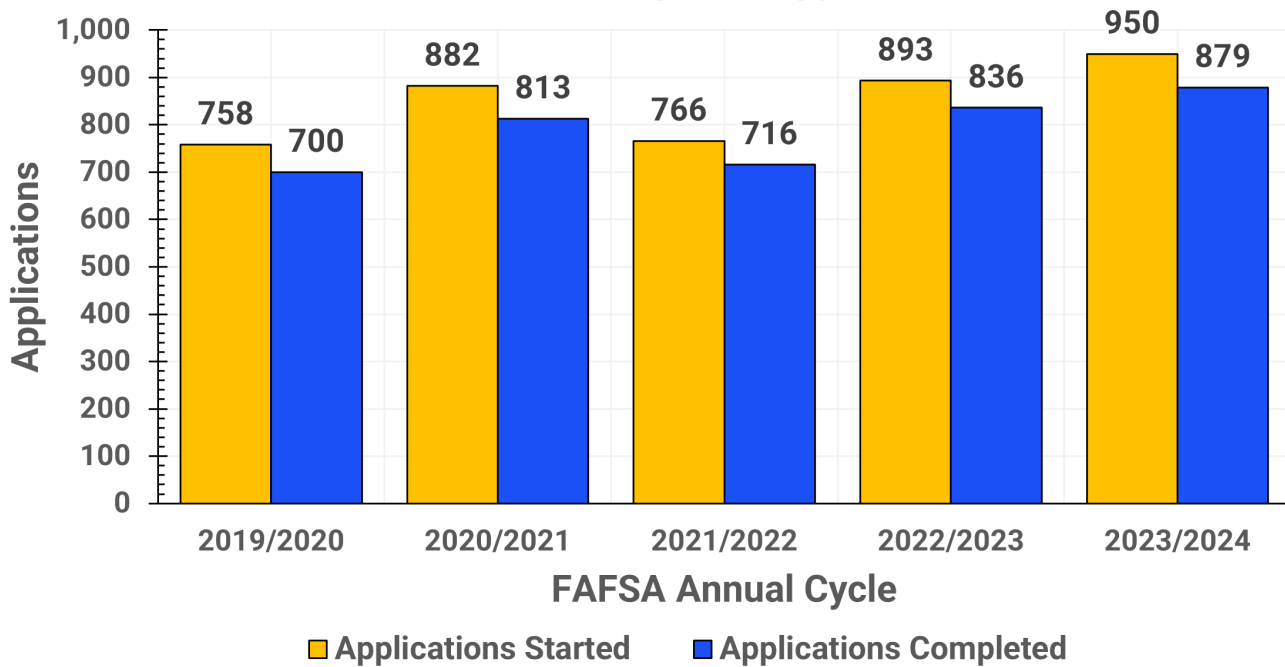


"Anyone interested in doing this work is invited to the table," said REF Executive Director Amy Stein. "We link arms, eliminate silos, and serve our students as well as we possibly can. We're here to support all of our young scholars, from the future valedictorian to the kid who could fail out

tomorrow, because you never know what might change a young person's belief in what's possible for their future."

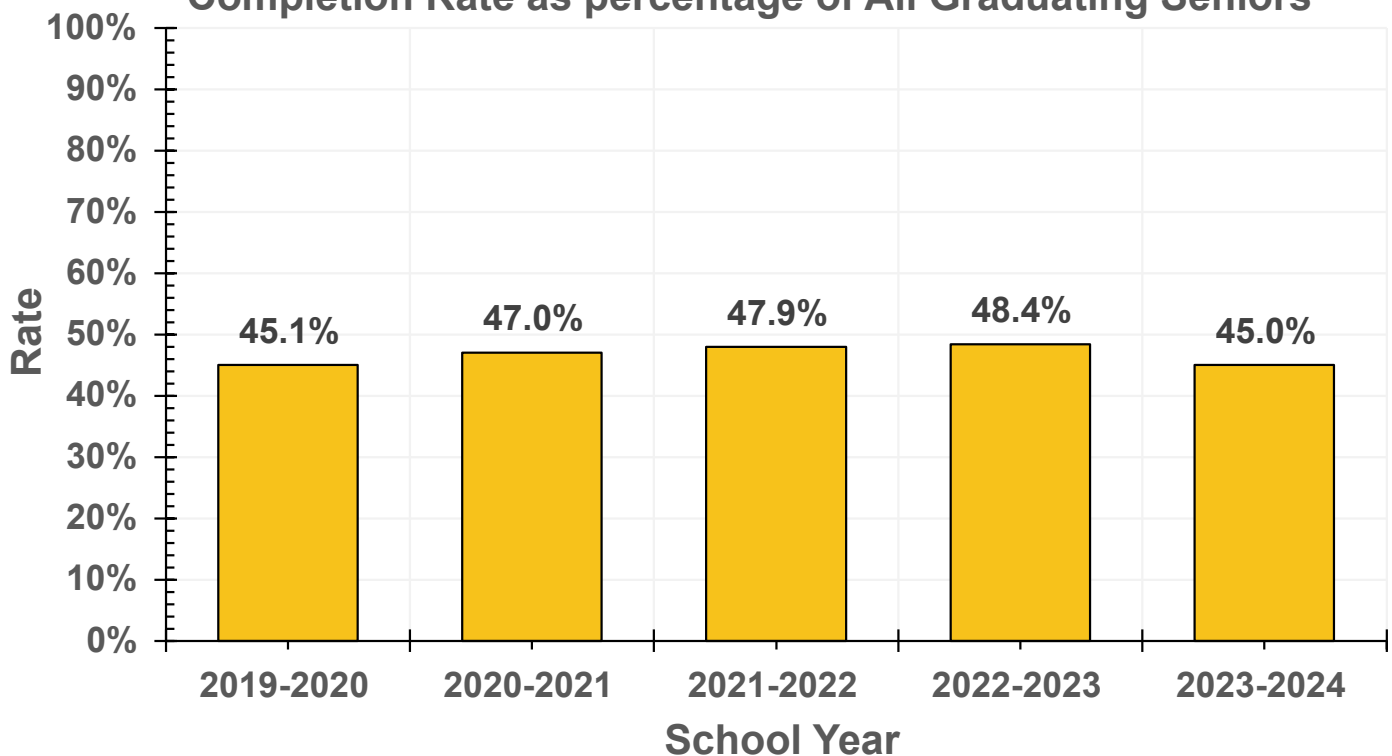


Rochester Public & Charter School Graduating Seniors Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Stated vs. Completed Applications



Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid, FAFSA Completion Data (2024), <https://studentaid.gov/data-center>

Rochester Public & Charter School Graduating Seniors Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Rate as percentage of All Graduating Seniors

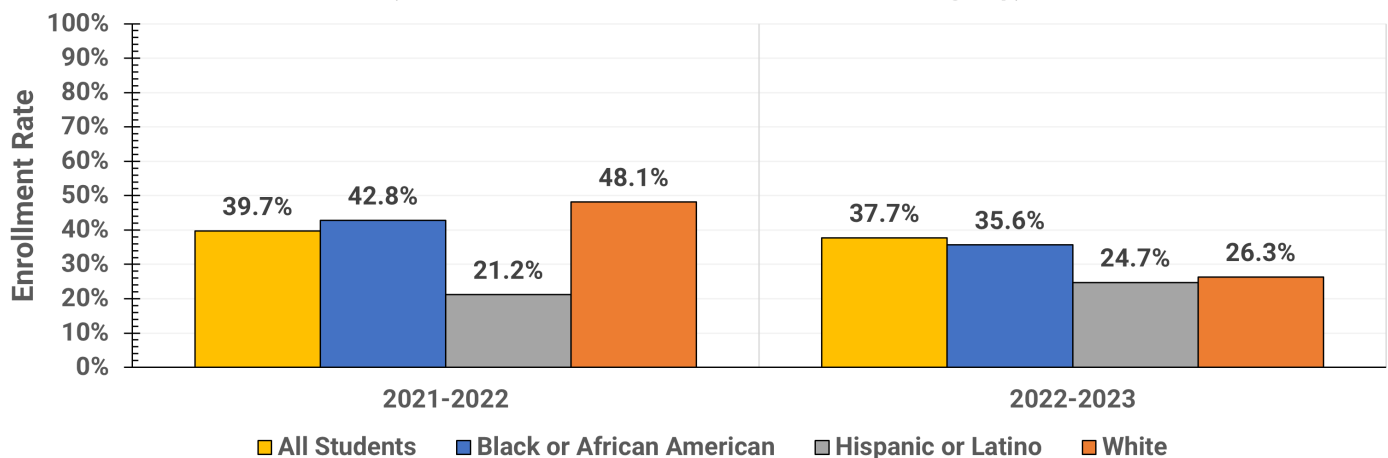


Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid, FAFSA Completion Data (2024), <https://studentaid.gov/data-center>

REF TEAMS WITH EACH ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL TO HOST A FAFSA FEST EVENT AT SCHOOL, WHERE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ARE ALREADY COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR COUNSELORS AND BUILDING. EXPERTS FROM THE ROCHESTER COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK COME TO SUPPORT EACH FAFSA FEST.



**Rochester Public & Charter School Graduates
Enrollment in Postsecondary Programs by Race & Ethnicity
(Enrollment Rate as % of Total Graduates in Subgroup)**



Academic Year

Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

REOC GRADUATE OFFERS COMPELLING CASE FOR STAYING THE COURSE

Dayeenah Al-hark is Admissions Staff Assistant at SUNY REOC. Her “cradle to career” journey took longer than expected, but six years ago she arrived at REOC where she feels a sense of pride and passion about her work. She shares her story to inspire people of all ages who are considering post-secondary education, whether it’s immediately after high school or several years later.

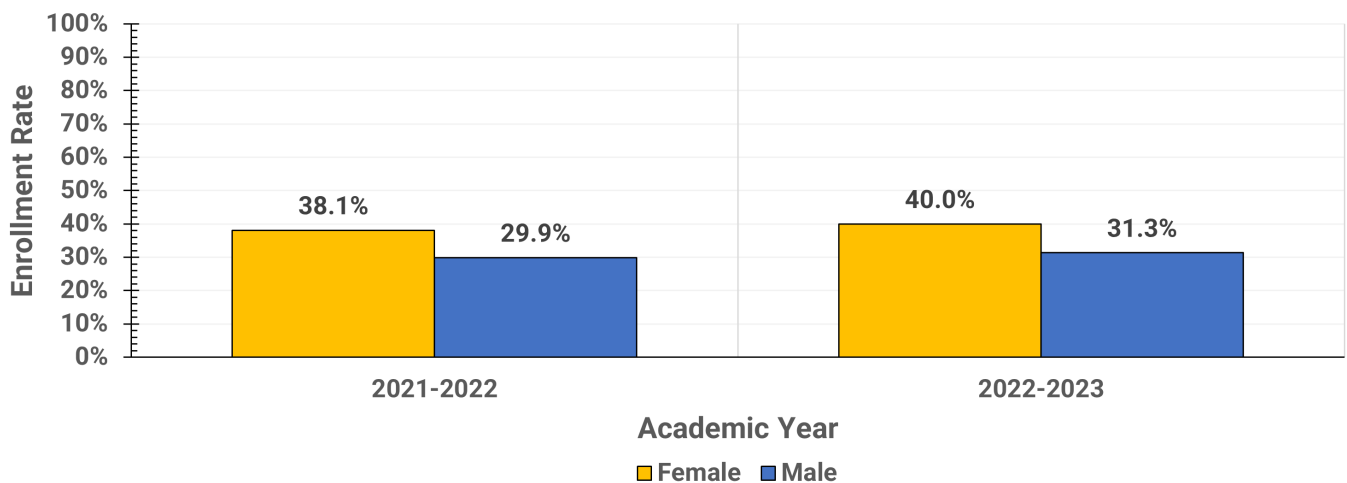
“I dropped out of high school in tenth grade because of poor choices and lack of parental guidance,” she recalled.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



NOT ONLY DID DAYEENAH WALK ACROSS THE STAGE, SHE RECEIVED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARD, GRADUATING WITH A 4.0 GPA

**Rochester Public & Charter School Graduates
Enrollment in Postsecondary Education Programs by Gender**
(Enrollment Rate as % of Total Graduates in Subgroup)



Source: New York State Department of Education (2024), <https://data.nysed.gov>

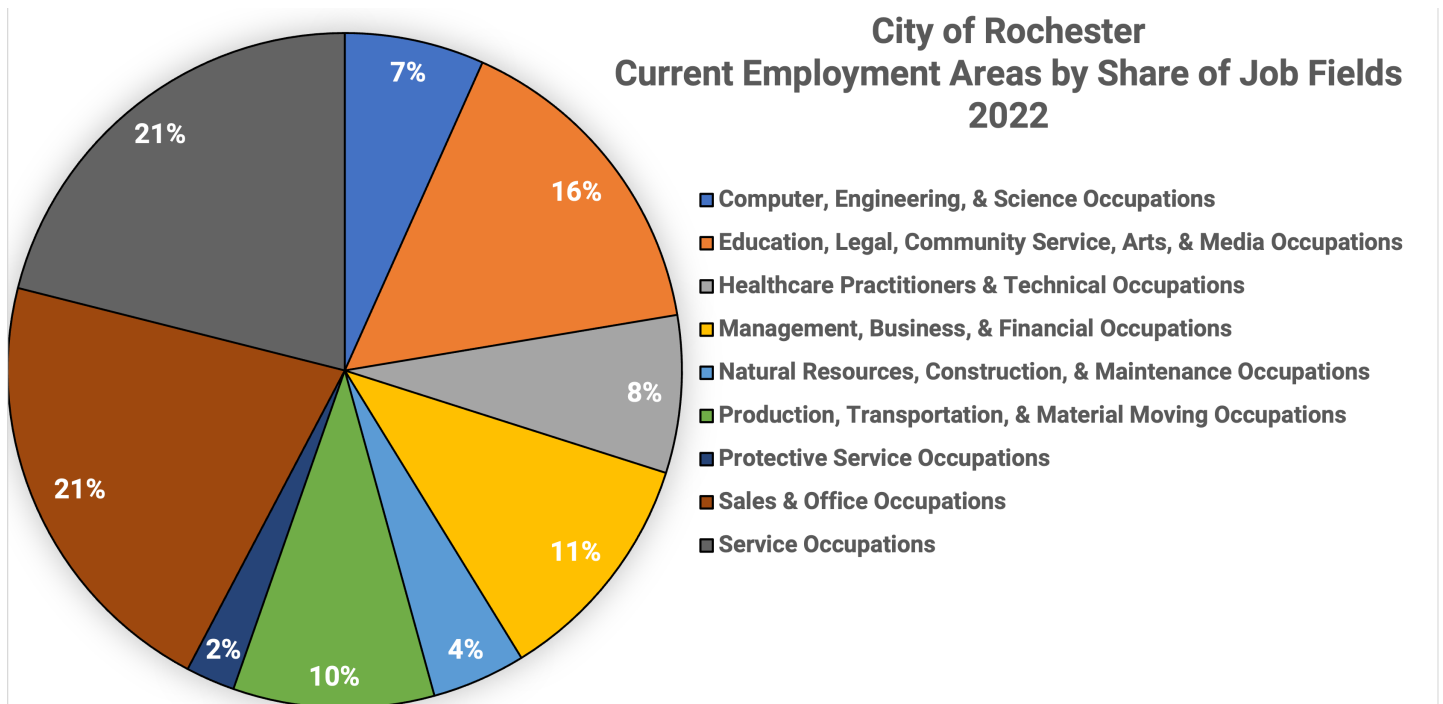
"I received my GED at the age of 18 and a few years later I earned my associates degree as a Clinical Medical Assistant. I was working on my bachelor's degree when I got in a serious car accident, which interrupted my education and my ability to work. After 15 years on disability, I was ready to get back to work.

"I thought I was too old to go back to a traditional college, so I figured I'd go to a vocational training school to refresh my skills so I could be more competitive in the workforce. I enrolled in the medical administrative assistant program at SUNY REOC. Six months later, REOC offered me a job as a Staff Assistant for their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"In 2021, I was promoted to the role of Admissions Staff Assistant. I've also had the pleasure of working as the phlebotomy instructor for REOC for the past year (after getting phlebotomy training myself at REOC).

"My experience as an employee at REOC is amazing. I wake up every day wanting to pay it forward by helping others to achieve their goals.

"I tell my students to always conduct themselves as professionally as they can because you never know who's watching. Even though you may not have had a good start, you can accomplish whatever you want to accomplish if you get your education."



From 2021 to 2022, employment in Rochester, New York, grew at a rate of 0.176%, from 95.7k employees to 95.9k employees.



BUILDING PARENT/FAMILY POWER

ROC the Future Alliance is committed to honoring parents by placing them at the center of our collective impact work. Our Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network (PECAN) unveiled a new theme in 2024: “Activate and Build Parent/Family Partner Leaders.” The theme reflects our focus on strengthening Parent/Family Partners (PFPs) to thrive as leaders by better equipping them to drive systemic change through our collective impact framework. To achieve this, PFPs spent several hours each month in leadership and professional development workshops building skills to tackle complex systemic issues. Several PFPs are now Certified Family Peer Advocates through BIPOC PEEEEEEK. Since 2023, our goal has been to achieve fifty percent parent representation on all of our outcome teams, committees, and workgroups.

We’re proud to share that we continue to make strides towards this goal.

Highlights include:

- More than **50** new Parent/Family Partners joined PECAN in 2024.
- A Parent/Family Partner recruitment campaign that included distribution of direct mail postcards to **6,000** homes and interviews on 105.5 The Beat and 104 WDKX.
- PECAN Parent/Family Partners, Jasmin Vega and Kearstin Piper- Brown, collaborated with Milwaukee Succeeds to present, Rooted in Community: This is How We Do It, during the national StriveTogether Cradle to Career Convening in Salt Lake City, Utah.

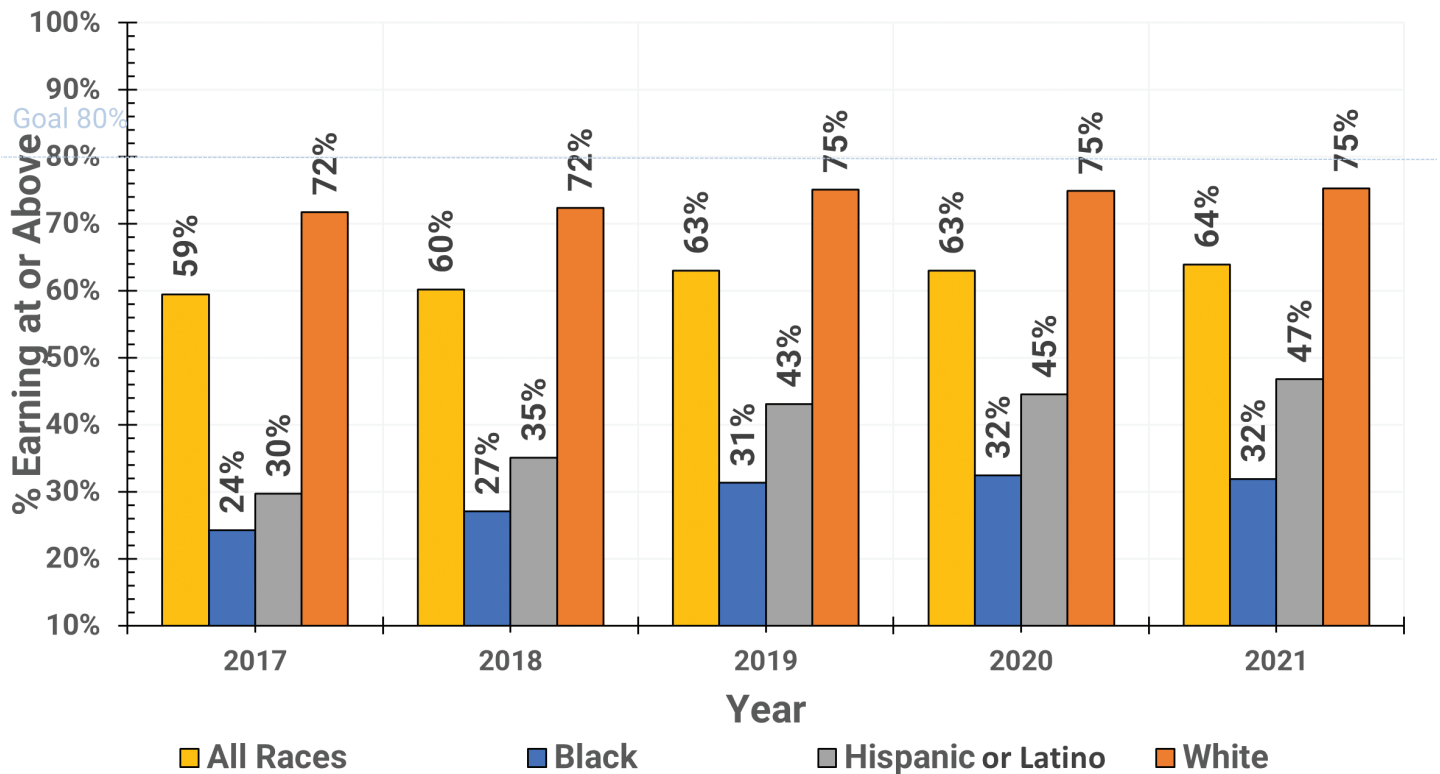


PARENT ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE ACTION NETWORK



STRIVETOGETHER CRADLE TO CAREER NATIONAL CONVENING

% of Rochester Families at or Above the Self-Sufficiency Threshold by Racial Demographics*



* View shows all families (aggregate of all family structures) earning (income not including any public assistance) above the self sufficiency standard from 2017 to 2021. Families of residents ages 25 to 34.

Source: Census ACS (American Community Survey) PUMS (Public Use Microdata Sample) data, 5-yr estimates, for 2017-2021

ROCHESTER FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY THRESHOLD DATA

The self-sufficiency standard indicates whether or not families are able to meet their monthly costs, including housing, transportation, food, childcare, etc. At RTFA, our cradle to career work seeks to change systems to ensure families move from surviving to thriving.



SEEDING YOUTH SUCCESS

In 2024, ROC the Future Alliance recruited more than thirty students (8th-12th graders and first-year college students) to join our Youth Leadership Coalition (YLC). Since 2020, the YLC has empowered young leaders to effect meaningful change in the Greater Rochester community. Adding new members was a top priority for our Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team, as we reimagined the onboarding experience with renewed focus on maximizing the impact our youth advisors will make.

Our ongoing work includes:

- Exploring the history of K-12 education in Rochester, with a focus on racial equity and major systems changes that have occurred over time.
- Examining mental models, emphasizing the importance of youth voices and dispelling the idea that youth are too young to make a difference.
- Establishing a book club to expose youth leaders to publications like *The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves*—a critically acclaimed text about healing and achieving sustainable systemic change.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COALITION

SYSTEMS CHANGE ROADMAP



- Engaging with experts to learn about advocacy, lobbying, and building our legislative agenda.

We are also in the process of rolling out a recognition program to acknowledge graduating members of our Youth Leadership Coalition and celebrate and reward their leadership.







THANK YOU

FUNDERS + INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU

CONVENERS for setting strategic priorities, providing leadership, and elevating educational priorities in the community.

- Action for a Better Community
- Center for Governmental Research
- Children's Institute
- City of Rochester
- Common Ground Health
- Department of Pediatrics at Rochester Regional Health and University of Rochester Medical Center
- East High School
- EdCeptional
- ESL Federal Credit Union
- Farash Foundation
- Great Schools for All
- Greater Rochester Health Foundation
- Ibero American Action League
- Konar Foundation
- Monroe Community College
- Monroe County Department of Human Services
- Nazareth University
- New York Charter School Association
- NYS Assembly Member Harry B. Bronson
- NYS Assemblymember Sarah Clark
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Rochester City Council
- Rochester City School Board
- Rochester City School District
- Rochester Education Foundation
- Rochester Educational Opportunity Center
- Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative
- Rochester Public Library
- St. John Fisher University
- SUNY Brockport

- The Children's Agenda
- TogetherNow
- Urban League of Rochester
- YMCA of Greater Rochester

PARENT/FAMILY PARTNERS AND YOUTH

for stepping up to lead, representing community voices, participating in strategic decision-making, and shaping our future.

- Whole Child Initiative
- PECAN
- Healthi & Equitable Futures Project
- Youth Leadership Coalition

OUTCOME TEAMS AND WORKGROUPS

for leaning in and centering racial equity when identifying factors and root causes, identifying measurable outcomes, measuring impact, and providing recommendations.

- Whole Child Outcome Team
- High School Graduation Outcome Team
- Data Advisory Team
- Funding Committee
- Governance Committee

FUNDERS for investing in systems change and sustainability.

- ESL Foundation
- Farash Foundation
- Greater Rochester Health Foundation
- Konar Foundation
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Sands Foundation
- StriveTogether
- Wegmans Foundation

If you want to get involved,
please contact us at info@rocthefuture.org

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NOTES

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